GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:97
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2004
DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY FOR TRIBALS
Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad;Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft national policy on tribals has been brought out by the Government and is thrown open for wider public debate;

(b) if so, the salient features of the draft policy;

(c) whether the draft national policy for tribals has not found favour with most of the tribal representative bodies, especially those in Assam and other North-Eastern States;

(d) if so, whether the Government has taken steps to prepare a revised National Tribal Policy;

(e) if so, the details of the new draft, if any, circulated for eliciting opinions; and

(f) the outcome of the exercise to frame a new policy so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS(SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) Yes Sir.

(a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Ashram Schools for STs, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides construction grant to the State Govts. on 50:50 sharing basis. No grant is provided for computer Centres in these Ashram Schools.

(b) Some of the salient features of the draft policy are as under:

1. To focus on coordinated and concerted efforts towards accelerating the socio- economic development of STs without disturbing the distinct culture of tribal communities.

2. To ensure the socio-economic empowerment of the tribal communities, with special emphasis on women.

3. To ensure documentation of the rich traditional practices & wisdom enshrined in the tribal culture and propagating the same for posterity.

4. To address the problems of poverty, poor health conditions, lack of proper nutrition, sanitation and environmental hygiene in tribal communities by all appropriate measures.

5. To provide a strong and effective relief and rehabilitation system to ameliorate the miseries of tribals due to displacements.

(c) to (f) The Ministry has received a number of suggestions from experts, NGOs, tribal representatives from various parts of the country. Meanwhile an additional draft national policy for tribals has been circulated. The Ministry is in the process of analyzing the various views and suggestions. The Ministry is also organizing four zonal seminars and one national seminar at different places for wider public debate on draft policy as well as suggestions received. Once such regional seminar has been organized at Shimla on 18-19 Nov. 2004. The Ministry is thus still in the process of giving a final shape to the National Policy for Tribals.